What 22 Is Claimed Is: Claims

1. Use of an amphipathic compound comprising a lipophilic group derived from a sterol linked to a cationic group, for the production of a vaccine composition.

2. A use ~~Use~~ according to Claim 1, characterized in that the lipophilic group is a cholesterol derivative.

3. A use ~~Use~~ according to Claim 1 ~~either of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the cationic group is a quaternary ammonium or an amine which can be protonated.

4. A use ~~Use~~ according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the lipophilic group is attached to the cationic group via an ester, ether, amide or carbamoyl link.

5. A use ~~Use~~ according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the lipophilic group is separated from the cationic group by a branched or unbranched alkyl chain comprising from 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

6. A use ~~Use~~ according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the amphipathic compound is selected from the following compounds:

- cholesteryl-3β-carboxamidoethylenetrimethyl-ammonium iodide,

- cholesteryl-3β-carboxamidoethylenamine,

- cholesteryl-3β-oxysuccinamidoethylene-trimethylammonium iodide,

- 3β-[N-(N',N'-dimethylaminoethane)carbamoyl]-cholesterol,

- 3β-[N-(polyethylenamine)carbamoyl]cholesterol.

7. ~~Use~~ A use of 3β-[N-(N',N'-dimethylaminoethane)-carbamoyl]cholesterol for the production of a vaccine composition.

8. ~~Use~~ A use according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the amphipathic compound is combined with a neutral lipid.

9. ~~Use~~ A use according to Claim 8, characterized in that the proportion of neutral lipid combined is at least 20%.

10. ~~Use~~ A use according to ~~either of Claims 8 and 9~~ Claim 8 or 9, characterized in that the neutral lipid is dioleoylphosphatidylethanolamine (DOPE) or dioleoylphosphatidylcholine (DOPC).

11. ~~Use~~ A use according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the amphipathic compound is dispersed in an aqueous environment in the form of liposomes.

12. ~~Use~~ A use of an amphipathic compound comprising a lipophilic group derived from a sterol linked to a cationic group, as an adjuvant in the administration of a vaccine.

13. ~~Use~~ A use according to Claim 12, characterized in that the said amphipathic compound is 3β-[N-(N',N'-dimethyl-aminoethane)carbamoyl]cholesterol.

14. ~~Use~~ Use according to ~~either of Claims 12 and 13~~ Claim 12 or 13, characterized in that the said amphipathic compound is combined with a neutral lipid.

15. ~~Vaccine~~ A vaccine composition comprising at least one antigen, characterized in that it comprises, in addition, at least one amphipathic compound possessing a lipophilic group derived from a sterol linked to a cationic group.

16. ~~Vaccine~~ A vaccine composition according to Claim 15, characterized in that the said lipophilic group is a cholesterol derivative.

17. ~~Vaccine~~ A vaccine composition according to ~~either of Claims 15 and 16~~ Claim 15 or 16, characterized in that the said amphipathic compound ~~is~~ 3β-[N-(N',N'-dimethyl-aminoethane)carbamoyl]cholesterol.

18. ~~Vaccine~~ A vaccine composition according to ~~one of Claims 15 to 17~~ Claim 15, characterized in that the said amphipathic compound takes the form of liposomes including at least one antigen.

19. ~~Vaccine~~ A vaccine composition according to ~~one of Claims 15 to 18~~ Claim 15, characterized in that the said amphipathic compound is combined with a neutral lipid.

20. ~~Vaccine~~ A vaccine composition according to ~~one of Claims 15 to 19~~ Claim 15, characterized in that it comprises at least one influenza virus antigen.

21. ~~Method~~ A method for inducing an immune response in a mammal, consisting in administering at least one antigen to the mammal, characterized in that it consists in administering, in addition, at least one amphipathic

compound comprising a lipophilic group derived from a sterol linked to a polar group.

22. ~~Method~~ A method according to Claim 21, characterized in that the said amphipathic compound is administered at the same time as the antigen.

23. ~~Method~~ A method according to ~~either of Claims 21 and 22~~ Claim 21 or 22, characterized in that the antigen is an influenza virus haemagglutinin.

24. ~~Product~~ A product containing at least one antigen and one amphipathic compound comprising a lipophilic group derived from a sterol linked to a cationic group, as a combination product for use simultaneously, separately or staggered over time in vaccination.

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